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Economic and Social Council

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Commission on the Status of Women
Fifty-fifth session
22 February–4 March 2011
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) Priority theme: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work;
      (ii) Review theme: the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session.

* The proposed organization of work will be issued as E/CN.6/2011/1/Add.1.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

In accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, and pursuant to Council resolution 1987/21 and decision 2002/234, the Commission on the Status of Women, at the 1st meeting of its fifty-fourth session, on 13 March 2009, elected, by acclamation, Armen Martirosyan (Armenia) as Chair, and Leysa Sow (Senegal), Roberto Storaci (Italy) and Takashi Ashiki (Japan) as Vice-Chairs of the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission. On 14 October 2009, at the second meeting of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission, and following the resignation of Armen Martirosyan, the Commission elected, by acclamation, Garen Nazarian (Armenia) as Chair for the remainder of the fifty-fourth and for the fifty-fifth session. The Commission also elected Julio Peralta (Paraguay) as Vice-Chair for the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions.

Following the resignation of Roberto Storaci (Italy), Julio Peralta (Paraguay) and Takashi Ashiki (Japan), the Commission, at the first meeting of its fifty-fifth session on 12 March 2010, elected by acclamation Filippo Cinti (Italy) and Maria Luz Melon (Argentina) as Vice-Chairs for the fifty-fifth session.[1]

At its first meeting, on 22 February 2011, the Commission will be called upon to elect Tetsuya Kimura (Japan) who has been nominated by the Asian Group of States, as Vice-Chair, and to designate one of the Vice-Chairs to act also as Rapporteur of the Commission.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/16, the Commission, at its fifty-fourth session, appointed five members to the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, to serve for the fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission, at the beginning of each session, shall adopt the agenda of that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission were approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 2010/233.

Preparations for the fifty-fifth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/9 and 2009/15. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as informal briefings and consultations with all interested delegations to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

[1] The list of members of the Commission at its fifty-fifth session is contained in the annex to the present document.

Following past practice, statements delivered by representatives of delegations of members and observers of the Commission during general discussions shall be limited to five minutes, and statements made on behalf of groups of delegations to 10 minutes. It is also recommended that interventions from non-governmental organizations be integrated into the general debate and the thematic panel discussions, taking into consideration geographical balance.

By its resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence the General Assembly established, as a composite entity, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). UN Women consolidates the existing mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, as well as those of the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; it functions as a secretariat and also carries out operational activities at the country level.

In the same resolution, it was also decided that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women would constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions and would provide normative policy guidance to the new entity UN Women (see para. 57 (a)); and that the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of UN Women would constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the operational activities and would provide operational policy guidance to UN Women (see para. 57 (b)). In paragraph 67, the Assembly emphasized the need to establish concrete results-based reporting mechanisms, as well as the need for coherence, consistency and coordination between the normative and operational aspects of the work of UN Women and in that regard requested:

(a) The Commission on the Status of Women and the Executive Board of UN Women to work closely together to provide coherent guidance and direction in their respective areas;

(b) The Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010 to establish appropriate and concrete linkages between the Commission and the Executive Board to ensure consistency between the overall policy guidance set by the Commission and the operational strategies and operational activities approved by the Executive Board;

(c) The head of UN Women to submit to the Commission an annual report on the normative aspects of the work of UN Women and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission.

Documentation

Report by the Executive Director of UN Women to the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2011/2)

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council decided that the annual interactive high-level round table would focus on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made with regard to the priority theme.

The high-level round table at the fifty-fifth session will focus on "access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".

Documentation

Note by the Bureau of the Commission on the Status of Women: discussion guide on the high-level round table on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/4)

Priority theme

In its resolution 2009/15, the Economic and Social Council endorsed the Commission's proposed future organization and methods of work. Accordingly, at its fifty-fifth session, the Commission will consider the theme "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".

Review theme

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15, the Commission will evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions from its fifty-first session on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on access and participation of women and girls

in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work (E/CN.6/2011/5).

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Bureau of the Commission, prior to each session, to identify, in consultation with all States, through their regional groups, an emerging issue for consideration by the Commission, taking into account developments at the global and regional levels as well as planned activities within the United Nations, where increased attention to gender perspectives was required.

Following consultation, the Bureau decided that the Commission would hold an interactive expert panel on the emerging issue (to be determined).

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters

Progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

In its resolution 2006/9, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission, on an annual basis, a report on progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme.

Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2010/6 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Economic and Social Council requested the Commission to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

Women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS

In its resolution 54/2, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the resolution, with an emphasis on accelerated actions taken in regard to women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS, and with a view to assessing the impact on the well-being of women and the girl child.

Joint workplan on the human rights of women

In accordance with resolution 39/5 of the Commission on the Status of Women, resolution 1997/43 of the Commission on Human Rights and resolution 6/30 of the Human Rights Council, the Commission on the Status of Women will have before it

a report on the joint workplan of UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Violence against women

In its resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested the Fund to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women.

Eliminating maternal mortality and morbidity through the empowerment of women

In its resolution 54/5, the Commission decided to hold an expert panel discussion on the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the empowerment of women, including oral briefings by and an interactive discussion with the relevant United Nations funds, programmes, agencies and offices, including the World Bank, as well as representatives of the private sector and civil society, such as the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, the Global Fund to Combat HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for information. The report of the Committee on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (A/65/38) will be before the Commission. A note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the Committee's forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions will also be before the Commission.

Programme matters

The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of UN Women for the period 2012-2013 (pending action by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2011/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV and AIDS (E/CN.6/2011/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of UN Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (A/HRC/16/33-E/CN.6/2011/8)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women (A/HRC/16/34-E/CN.6/2011/9)

Documents for information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (A/65/38)

Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of UN Women for the period 2012-2013 (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.1)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2011/CRP.2)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Economic and Social Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members would be able to meet to enable the Secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that would be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive in advance the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its report for examination by the Commission.

In its resolution 2009/16, the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission, starting at its fifty-fourth session, should appoint the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for a two-year period.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2011/SW/COMM.LIST/45/R and Add.1)

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions

The Commission will have before it a letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council on follow-up to the Council's policy recommendations.

In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2001/27, functional commissions are invited to provide concise, action-oriented input to the Council's annual high-level segment. At its 2011 annual ministerial review, the Council will consider the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education". The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat concerning the Commission's input to the 2011 annual ministerial review.

Documentation

Letter dated 8 November 2010 from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chair of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2011/10)

Note by the Secretariat on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education (E/CN.6/2011/11)

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission will have before it a draft provisional agenda for its fifty sixth session, including the list of documents to be submitted for its consideration.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its fifty-fifth session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session (2011)

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Argentina	2014
Armenia	2011
Azerbaijan	2011
Bangladesh	2014
Belarus	2013
Belgium	2011
Cambodia	2011
Central African Republic	2014
China	2012
Colombia	2013
Comoros	2014
Cuba	2012
Dominican Republic	2012
El Salvador	2014
Eritrea	2012
Gabon	2011
Gambia	2014
Germany	2013
Guinea	2013
Haiti	2012
India	2012
Iraq	2013
Israel	2013
Italy	2013
Japan	2013

Membership	*Term expires at close of session in the year*
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	2014
Malaysia	2014
Mauritania	2013
Mongolia	2014
Namibia	2011
Nicaragua	2013
Niger	2011
Pakistan	2011
Paraguay	2011
Philippines	2014
Republic of Korea	2014
Russian Federation	2012
Rwanda	2013
Senegal	2012
Spain	2011
Swaziland	2014
Sweden	2012
Turkey	2011
United States of America	2012
Uruguay	2014

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Item 2 of the provisional agenda*
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	Agenda item		Programme
Tuesday, 22 February			
10 a.m.	Item 1	Election of officers	
	Item 2	Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	
	Item 3	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	Opening statements Introduction of reports General discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (a) (i)	Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives: Priority theme: access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work	High-level round table on experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including results with supporting data, where available, in relation to the implementation of previous commitments made in regard to the priority theme (in two parallel meetings)

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Meeting	Agenda item	Discussion
Wednesday, 23 February		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (a) (iii) (*continued*)	Interactive expert panel on key policy initiatives and capacity-building for gender mainstreaming, access and participation of women and girls in science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work
	Item 3 (c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters	
3 p.m.	Item 3 (a) (ii) and (c) (*continued*)	Interactive expert panel on key policy initiatives and capacity-building for gender mainstreaming, access and participation of women and girls in education and training, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work
Thursday, 24 February		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)	General discussion
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)	General discussion
Friday, 25 February		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (a) (iii) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives. Review theme: the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child	Interactive dialogue to evaluate progress in the implementation of the agreed conclusions on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against the girl child
3 p.m.	Item 3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Agreed conclusions (informal consultations)
Monday, 28 February		
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)	General discussion (concluded)
10 a.m. (in parallel)	Item 3 (a) (i) (*continued*)	Agreed conclusions (informal consultations)
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)	Agreed conclusions (informal consultations)

Date/time	Agenda item		Programme
Tuesday, 1 March			
10 a.m.	Item 3 (b)	Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men	Interactive expert panel discussion on the emerging issue "Gender equality and sustainable development"
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)		Expert panel discussion on the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and the empowerment of women
Wednesday, 2 March			
10 a.m.	Item 3 (a) (i) (*continued*)		Agreed conclusions (informal consultations)
3 p.m.	Item 4	Communications concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women
	Item 3 (a) (i) (*continued*)		Agreed conclusions (informal consultations)
Thursday, 3 March			
10 a.m.	Item 5	Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	Introduction and discussion Introduction of draft proposals
10 a.m. (in parallel)	Item 3 (a) (i) (*continued*)		Agreed conclusions (informal consultations)
3 p.m.	Item 3 (a) (i) (*continued*)		Agreed conclusions (informal consultations)
Friday, 4 March			
10 a.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)		Action on draft proposals
3 p.m.	Item 3 (*continued*)		Action on draft proposals
	Item 6	Provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission	Adoption of the provisional agenda of the fifty-sixth session of the Commission
	Item 7	Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-fifth session	Adoption of the report Closure of the fifty-fifth session[2]

[1] The deadline for submission of draft proposals is 1 March at 3 p.m.

[2] In accordance with Economic and Social Council decision 2002/234, immediately following the closure of the fifty-fifth session, the Commission will hold the first meeting of its fifty-sixth session for the sole purpose of electing the Chair and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

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Report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women

I. Background and introduction

1. In its resolution 64/289, the General Assembly established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women). It requested the head of UN-Women to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women an annual report on the normative aspects of the Entity's work and on its implementation of the policy guidance provided by the Commission in paragraph 67 (c) of the resolution. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request.

2. As I assumed my responsibilities only slightly more than two months ago, the present report focuses on two areas aimed at turning UN-Women into an entity capable of fully responding to the expectations set out by Member States in resolution 64/289. The first area focuses on the elaboration of my vision and strategic direction for UN-Women, and the second focuses on the critical administrative and institutional changes needed to consolidate the previous four offices into a dynamic and innovative structure that also integrates the additional role entrusted to UN-Women by the General Assembly of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women. My future reports to the Commission will elaborate on how UN-Women supports the gender-specific intergovernmental processes and works to strengthen attention to gender equality aspects across sectoral and thematic intergovernmental bodies and processes. It will also discuss UN-Women's concrete support for the implementation at different levels of the policy guidance provided by the Commission, especially at the national level, and on cooperation and coordination with relevant stakeholders in those efforts.

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II. Vision, strategic direction and governance of UN-Women

4. The year 2010 provided many critical opportunities for assessing progress made in reaching internationally agreed goals and in implementing the global policy framework for gender equality and women's empowerment. While all these events contributed to sustaining the focus on urgently necessary action, there is agreement that much more needs to be done to close the gaps between women's rights in the law and their enjoyment in practice, between existing policies and strategies for women's empowerment and their actual implementation, and between the many commitments to level the playing field and empower women to take full advantage of rights, opportunities and resources and to contribute as equal partners to all aspects of development, and concrete actions.

5. The establishment of UN-Women is an acknowledgement of the gaps and challenges in the United Nations system's response to persistent gender discrimination, in particular in the areas of coordination and coherence, authority and positioning, accountability, and human and financial resources. Our work in the months and years ahead will aim to narrow and ultimately close these gaps so as to ensure that the United Nations system as a whole contributes decisively to the accelerated realization of gender equality and women's empowerment.

6. The mission of UN-Women — grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations — is to work for the elimination of discrimination against women and girls, the empowerment of women, and the achievement of equality between women and men as partners in and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security. Placing women's rights at the centre of all its efforts, UN-Women will lead and coordinate the efforts of the United Nations system to ensure that commitments on gender equality and gender mainstreaming translate into action throughout the world. It will provide strong and coherent leadership in support of Member States' priorities and efforts, building effective partnerships with national mechanisms for gender equality, civil society and other relevant actors (see A/64/588).

7. I have embarked on a consultative process involving all stakeholders to develop UN-Women's future strategy. The hallmarks of the strategy will align with the founding resolution. It will focus on expanding support to Member States at the national level, in line with national priorities; strengthening coherence between the normative support provided to global intergovernmental processes and the technical and thematic advice provided to national partners at the country level; and strengthening leadership, coordination and accountability on gender equality and women's empowerment and support to gender mainstreaming across the United Nations system.

8. In order to ready UN-Women for this strategic direction, I am focusing on four immediate tasks. First, all necessary efforts are being made to make UN-Women operational by 1 January 2011 and to imbue the new organization with a new identity and vision (see also the next section). This includes an early focus on strengthening the capacity of UN-Women in the field so that we can deliver where the need is greatest and respond to requests for support from Member States. My second priority is to consult with entities of the United Nations system in order to put in place an effective framework for collaboration from the national to the global level and for coordinated support from the entire United Nations system to Member

States for accelerated implementation of gender equality commitments. My third priority is to engage with the many constituencies that advocated for the establishment of UN-Women, including national mechanisms for gender equality and women's groups and networks from countries worldwide. The views of these stakeholders are critical in helping to clarify expectations and in setting priorities for the future strategic approaches of UN-Women. My fourth priority is to ensure that we obtain as quickly as possible a solid and predictable resource base so that UN-Women can provide the necessary support at the national level. To that end, I am reaching out to Member States. I am also aiming to build new and innovative partnerships to secure new resources so that UN-Women can make the necessary investments to help turn existing commitments and aspirations into real change for women and girls.

8. The General Assembly consolidated and transferred to UN-Women the existing mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women. The Assembly highlighted UN-Women's additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and women's empowerment. As a composite entity, UN-Women functions as a secretariat and also carries out operational activities at the country level.

9. The governance arrangements for UN-Women reflect this composite nature: the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions and provide normative policy guidance to the Entity. The General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of the Entity constitute the multi-tiered intergovernmental governance structure for the operational activities and provide operational policy guidance to the Entity.

10. UN-Women will continue to support the global-level intergovernmental processes on gender equality and the empowerment of women, within the broad framework of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and related United Nations instruments, standards and resolutions. It will maintain and deepen its expertise on issues identified by Member States, in support of intergovernmental discussions on ongoing and emerging issues, as required. At the same time, UN-Women will support countries' efforts to deliver on their commitments to effect concrete changes in the lives of women and girls. UN-Women will also strive to strengthen coherence between the normative support it provides to intergovernmental processes and its operational support to partners at the national level. Translating these mutually supportive mandates and functions into concrete changes for women and girls will be a principal task of UN-Women in the immediate future.

III. Steps taken towards operationalizing UN-Women

11. The process of merging the former entities into a coherent results-driven organization will continue through 2010 and into 2011. The transition includes both the integration of the mandates, functions and assets of the four entities into one

innovative and coherent institutional set-up that will respond to the expectations of Member States and other stakeholders and the review and approval by relevant intergovernmental bodies of proposals for the UN-Women budget for 2011.

12. The Entity's transition and change-management process is under way, and I expect significant progress by the end of 2010 in terms of the transition of staff into UN-Women and the establishment of new work units. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (A/65/531), the work of UN-Women will be based on two main substantive pillars, with strong and organic links between them. These pillars are intergovernmental support, United Nations coordination and strategic partnership, and policy and programme activities. This structure will be the basis, on the one hand, for the consolidation of thematic specialists into work units and, on the other hand, for the integration of normative support functions with the provision of technical and thematic advice for operational activities at the national level. The resulting synergies are expected to enrich the normative support work with concrete advances, lessons learned and good practices from the field, and lead to more systematic follow-up to, and assistance with implementation of, intergovernmental commitments through operational activities. Senior-level positions are in the process of being advertised, and I look forward to having the senior management team in place at the time of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.

13. In line with its composite nature, UN-Women's funding comes from two principal sources: the resources required to service the normative intergovernmental processes are funded from the regular budget and are approved by the General Assembly. The resources required to service the operational intergovernmental processes and operational activities at all levels are funded from voluntary contributions and are approved by the Executive Board.

14. The Secretary-General submitted, for approval by the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session, a revised proposal for the use of regular budget resources approved for the biennium 2010-2011 for the normative support functions of UN-Women, including options for the administrative arrangements for its regular budget (A/65/531). An update on action taken by the Assembly will be provided orally to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session. Changes to the 2010-2011 strategic framework resulting from the establishment of UN-Women will be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at the time of its review of the strategic framework for the biennium 2012-2013, in accordance with established procedures.

15. The Executive Board of UN-Women was elected by the Economic and Social Council on 10 November 2010, and its organizational session is scheduled to take place on 15 December. Among the issues to be taken up by the Board at that time are its draft rules of procedure, along with other organizational matters. The first regular session of the Board will take place from 24 to 26 January 2011. As requested in the founding resolution, I will be submitting a proposal for the use of voluntary resources for the support budget for the biennium 2010-2011 to the Board at its first regular session in 2011. I intend to submit the UN-Women strategic plan 2011-2013 to the Board at its second regular session, in June 2011. In anticipation of the development of the strategic plan, I am preparing a "vision and 100-day action plan", which will provide indications of the priority areas where I believe UN-Women will take global leadership.

16. The above-mentioned proposals for the UN-Women 2011 budget are aimed at putting in place the minimum essential capacities needed to meet the requirements set out in the General Assembly resolution. In the light of the timing of the establishment of UN-Women, the revised proposals for the use of regular budget resources and voluntary contributions, respectively, build on the approved strategic frameworks of the four former entities.

17. I have also initiated a field capacity assessment exercise which will provide a basis for determining the specific capacities required in different country/regional typologies to ensure the effective implementation of UN-Women's mandate. This assessment will in particular assist UN-Women to clarify the capacities required to strengthen coherence between the normative guidance generated by intergovernmental bodies and the operational support provided to national partners at the country level, and on the capacities required to strengthen coordination and coherence in the United Nations system.

IV. Conclusions

18. The establishment of UN-Women is historic. The level of expectations on the part of all stakeholders for swift and tangible results is enormous. Success requires the commitment and contributions of many — Member States, entities of the United Nations system and civil society — in addition to UN-Women's own efforts.

19. The Commission on the Status of Women plays a central role in overall policymaking, follow-up and monitoring with regard to issues of gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as in gender mainstreaming. Its multi-year programme of work and its working methods respond to this mandate.

20. This continuing role of the Commission takes on an additional dimension, as the Commission has now been called upon by the General Assembly to work closely with the Executive Board of UN-Women to provide coherent guidance and direction in their respective areas. Such interaction should aim to contribute to closing the gaps, at all levels, between existing and future intergovernmental goals and commitments and their effective implementation, for the benefit of women and girls everywhere.